Listing of the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings of the claims.

Claims 1 to 10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) An orifice introducer device comprising:

a tubular member having a lumen and a distal end;

a tubular insertion device positioned within the lumen of the tubular member;

a distal portion having a proximal end detachably connected to the tubular member, the proximal end having an annular groove that receives the distal end of the tubular member such that contact between the distal end of the tubular member and a side of the annular groove constrains the proximal end of the distal portion against radial contraction, the tubular insertion device configured to detach the distal portion from the tubular member, wherein, when the distal portion is detached from the distal end of the tubular member, the proximal end of the distal portion contracts from a radially outward position to a radially inward position such that the proximal end of the distal portion has an outer diameter smaller than an inside diameter of the tubular insertion device; wherein the smaller outer diameter of the distal portion allows the distal portion to be proximally withdrawn through the tubular insertion device while leaving the tubular insertion device in place within the tubular member.

12. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein, when the distal portion is secured to the distal end of the tubular member, a distal end of the distal portion has a smaller diameter than the diameter of the tubular member.

Claims 13 to 16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, further comprising a recovery device for withdrawing the distal portion through the lumen of the tubular member.

18. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein the recovery device is a string attached to the distal portion.

19. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein, the proximal end of the distal portion is made of an elastomeric material that radially contracts to allow the detached distal portion to be withdrawn through the lumen of the tubular insertion device.

20. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, further comprising a surgical device within the lumen.

Claims 21 to 27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) A method for using an orifice introducer device comprising the steps of:

providing a tubular member having a distal end;

detachably securing a proximal end of a distal portion to the distal end of the tubular member by receiving the distal end of the tubular member in an annular groove at the proximal end of the distal portion such that contact between the distal end of the tubular member and a side of the annular groove constrains the proximal end of the distal portion against radial contraction, a distal end of the distal portion having a smaller diameter than the tubular member;

inserting the distal end of the distal portion into an orifice;

~~selectively detaching the distal portion from the tubular member by inserting~~ after inserting, distally advancing a tubular insertion device through the tubular member until a distal end of the tubular insertion device contacts the distal portion to distally move the distal portion thereby selectively detaching the distal portion from the tubular member;

upon selectively detaching the distal portion from the tubular member, the distal portion contracts ~~contracting~~ so as to have a proximal end diameter smaller than a diameter of the tubular member; and

withdrawing the distal portion through the tubular member.

Claims 29 to 30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of inserting an element through the tubular member after withdrawing the distal portion.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the element is a surgical device.

Claims 33 to 38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

a tubular member having a distal end, the tubular member having therein a surgical stapler apparatus;

a second member being arranged internally within the tubular member and being configured to move longitudinally relative to the tubular member; and

a distal portion having a proximal end mounted to the distal end of the tubular member, the proximal end having an annular groove that receives the distal end of the tubular member such that contact between the distal end of the tubular member and a side of the annular groove constrains the proximal end of the distal portion against radial contraction, the distal portion being selectively detachable from the tubular member by engagement with the second member when the second member is moved distally longitudinally, the proximal end of the distal portion being configured to contract from a radially outward position to a radially inward position such that the distal portion has a smaller diameter than a diameter of the tubular member, wherein a recovery device is configured to withdraw the distal portion through the lumen of the tubular member after the second member has been withdrawn from the tubular member, wherein the distal portion is movable between a first expanded configuration when the distal portion is attached to the distal end of the tubular member and a second contracted configuration when the distal portion is detached from the distal end of the tubular member, wherein:

in the first expanded configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is oriented towards a proximal direction, and

in the second contracted configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is oriented towards a distal direction.

40. (Previously presented) The device of claim 39, wherein at least a portion of the distal portion having a smaller diameter than the tubular member.

Claim 41. (Canceled).

42. (Previously presented) The device of claim 39, wherein the distal portion is conical.

43. (Previously presented) The device of claim 39, wherein the distal portion is tapered.

44. (Currently amended) An orifice introducer device comprising:

a tubular member having a lumen and a distal end;

a distal portion having a proximal end detachably connectable to the tubular member, the proximal end having an annular groove configured to receive the distal end of the tubular member such that contact between the distal end of the tubular member and a side of the annular groove constrains the proximal end of the distal portion against radial contraction, wherein, when the distal portion is detached from the distal end of the tubular member, the proximal end of the distal portion contracts from a radially outward position to a radially inward position such that the distal portion has a smaller diameter than a diameter of the tubular member, wherein the distal portion is movable between a first expanded configuration when the distal portion is

attached to the distal end of the tubular member and a second contracted configuration when the distal portion is detached from the distal end of the tubular member, wherein:

in the first expanded configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is oriented towards a proximal direction, and

in the second contracted configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is oriented towards a distal direction.

45. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 44, wherein the proximal end of the distal portion contracts from the radially outward position to the radially inward position via flexure of the distal portion.

46. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 44, wherein the proximal end is biased toward the radially inward position when the proximal end is in the radially outward position.

47. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein the distal portion is movable between a first expanded configuration when the distal portion is attached to the distal end of the tubular member and a second contracted configuration when the distal portion is detached from the distal end of the tubular member, wherein:

in the first expanded configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is positioned at a proximal segment of the distal portion, and

in the second contracted configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is positioned distally from the proximal segment of the distal portion.

48. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein the distal portion is movable between a first expanded configuration when the distal portion is attached to the distal end of the tubular member and a second contracted configuration when the distal portion is detached from the distal end of the tubular member, wherein:

in the first expanded configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is oriented towards a proximal direction, and

in the second contracted configuration the proximal end of the distal portion is oriented towards a distal direction.

49. (Previously presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the recovery device engages an inner portion of the distal portion.